

the public generally, an opportunity to see the marked contrast between the sprayed and unsprayed orchards. Seventy-five to 80 farmers assembled together, with some half-dozen newspaper men, and drove from orchard to orchard that those present might examine the quality of the fruit and make comparisons at first hand. What they saw was a revelation to those present. The fruit in the orchards that had been sprayed was in excellent condition, while in the unsprayed orchards a large proportion of the fruit was practically worthless for commercial purposes. A prominent buyer, Mr. Seldon, of Ingersoll, who was present, stated that the only fruit in the section worth buying was that in the sprayed orchards. The difference in quality was very apparent and convincing as regards the value of spraying.

The meeting was led by Mr. McNeill, Chief of the Fruit Division, and at suitable points Prof. Hutt, of the Ontario Agricultural College, explained different features of orchard practice. He spoke particularly on the question of orchard culture, and noted that, while the fruit was most excellent in the sprayed orchards, Providence had been especially kind, as most of them were in sod and not too well pruned. He recommended, for the general practice, clean cultivation during the growing season and cover crops during the rest of the year.

Mr. Putnam, Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes, spoke most encouragingly of the opening for educational work in the institutes. He expressed the opinion that the

work is only beginning, and has in no sense reached its fullest development.

At the close of the meeting Mr. McNeill spoke upon the subject of how to sell the apple crop. Owing to a combination of unfortunate circumstances, not easy to explain, many of the farmers who have the very finest apples are not offered more than 25 cents per barrel, and in some cases can not get buyers at any price. It was pointed out that with the exception of the sprayed orchards there was not an orchard in the neighborhood that would grade more than 25 per cent. of number one fruit, and therefore there was no encouragement for outside buyers to come in. If owners of the sprayed orchards would unite themselves into a cooperative association so that their manager could offer from 3,000 to 6,000 barrels of such fruit as was seen in the sprayed orchards that day there would not be the slightest difficulty in placing these apples on the market at the top price for the season.

As things are, Mr. McNeill said, he could not undertake to ask any buyer from a distance to visit Ingersoll for the small quantity of fruit the growers have to offer, as owing to the poor quality of fruit in the neighborhood, on all except sprayed orchards, there was absolutely nothing to sell. Strong points were made in favor of co-operation in all orchard work, as well as selling, as well as a plea for better methods in fruit growing. The weather was ideal and the meeting was a great success.

There is no use trying to smother out twitch grass. I put pea straw two feet deep over a half acre. but found that it was useless, as the grass grew up through the straw. Covering with straw and burning over is quite as ineffective owing to the roots being so deep. The only way seems to be to root it out.—(A. C. Lee, Paris.

Cost of Apple Barrels.—I have always packed apples in barrels made in Napanee. They cost 35 to 55 cents delivered last season. This year 40 cents is asked. Judging from the amount of barrels required in this section, which will be less than half of last year's needs, there will be no advance on the figure quoted.—(N. B. Hamm, Bath. Ont.